

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Claims 1-8 and 11-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's prior art disclosure in Fig. 3 ("APD") in view of Winer (USPN 5,796,401), Okazaki (USPN 7,079,177), and Kelman (USPN 6,850,896).

In accordance with the present response, claims 11-12 have been amended to overcome the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection. Independent claims 1 and 24 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 2 and 25, respectively. Independent claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 19 and further in a manner similar to independent claims 1 and 24. Independent claim 1 has been further amended to define the image displaying area of the display means and the report of analysis results of the analyzer as a "printing image displaying area" and a "printing image of a report of analysis results" respectively. Claims 11, 12 and 21 have also been amended to conform to the amendments to independent claim 1. Claims 2, 19, 20 and 25 have been canceled.

Applicant respectfully traverses the prior rejection of pending claims 1, 3-8, 11-17, 21-24 and 26. As set forth in detail below, the combined teachings of APD,

Winer, Okazaki and Kelman do not disclose or suggest, for example, the group editing means and corresponding function recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 24. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration of his application as set forth below.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a computer user interface for creating a printing template for analysis results of an analyzer. Amended independent claim 13 is directed to a user interface for a sample analyzer having a computer. Amended independent claim 24 is directed to a user interface for creating a printing template. Each of amended independent claims 1, 13 and 24 recites group editing means for performing group editing of items including the characters or the digits in the same group by performing character position alignment of the first characters or digit alignment of the digits.

By the foregoing editing means and corresponding function recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 24, group editing can be performed in a report of analysis results in an efficient and economical manner. For example, group editing can be performed for character position alignment such as position alignment of first characters or digit alignment of numeric values, display attributes such as size, color, and font, and position adjustment of grouped items, thereby

eliminating the necessity of manually editing titles for each item (e.g., analysis conditions) separately.

This is in contrast to conventional computer user interfaces for creating printing templates which include items of information arranged in a display area independently without any type of arrangement relationship. For example, in such conventional computer interfaces, when the items of information are displayed in a vertical arrangement, the starting positions of the contents thereof are not aligned and are difficult to differentiate from one another. In order to vertically align the contents of the items of information, the procedure required cannot be performed automatically, but instead requires separate editing operations (e.g., insertion of spaces) which renders the process expensive and time consuming to accomplish.

The group editing means and corresponding function recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 24 is not disclosed or suggested by the combined teachings of the references.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, APD, Okazaki and Kelman do not disclose or suggest group editing means.

Winer discloses a layout system that enables a user to interrelate objects in one or more permanent relationship by selectively distributing, aligning, sizing, and/or spacing the objects (col. 3, lines 13-20). However, even if such

layout system were interpreted to perform any type of group editing function, Winer does not disclose or suggest the specific group editing function recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 24, namely, performing group editing of items including the characters or the digits in the same group by performing character position alignment of the first characters or digit alignment of the digits. The "objects" in Winer correspond to boxes that can contain text, graphics, animation, video, outlines, titles, headlines, and other information and data (col. 3, lines 6-11). The "objects" in Winer do not correspond to the "characters" or "digits" recited in independent claims 1, 13 and 24.

Thus, Winer does not cure the deficiency of APD as modified by Okazaki and Kelman. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been led to modify the references to attain the claimed subject matter.

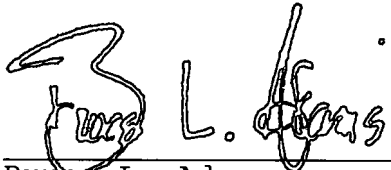
Claims 3-8, 11-12 and 14-17, 21-23 and 26 depend on and contain all of the limitations of amended independent claims 1, 13 and 24, respectively, and, therefore, distinguish from the references at least in the same manner as claims 1, 13 and 24.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 3-8, 11-17, 21-24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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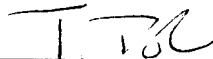
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